



MICHIGAN SAFETEA-LU HIGHLIGHTS

Michigan successfully increased its rate-of-return on the federal gas tax dollars we send to Washington, D.C. Between 2005 and 2009, Michigan's return will increase from 90.5 cents on the dollar to 92 cents on the dollar. Michigan is estimated to receive an average annual increase in highway funding of approximately \$239 million as compared to the amount our state received in the previous authorization period. Michigan's funding for transit programs is expected to be \$37 million more per year between 2005 and 2009 than during the previous authorization period. The funding increases in SAFETEA-LU, while modest, will assist MDOT in serving the transportation needs of our citizens and strengthening Michigan's economy.

The transportation programs and services that will receive increased funding as a result of the bill are many of the core programs that MDOT provides for Michigan citizens. Programs such as interstate maintenance, the national highway system, safety programs, bridge programs, congestion mitigation, and environmental programs all will receive some degree of funding increases. Additionally, some procedures have been streamlined to improve efficiency and accelerate the project delivery process.

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program has been favorably enhanced for Michigan. Michigan secured a greater level of funding for projects that are intended to decrease congestion and improve air quality. Additionally, there is greater flexibility in the type of project that is eligible for this funding source.

SAFETEA-LU also creates several new programs of importance to Michigan. A new border infrastructure program makes funding available to assist in our efforts to enhance the efficiency and security of international border crossings. An increased emphasis on highway safety, as evidenced in the creation of a new highway safety program, will help MDOT meet its goal of reducing traffic fatalities to one per 100 million vehicle miles traveled – saving over 1,000 lives and thousands of serious injuries.

The new Safe Routes to School program will improve safety for Michigan children walking or bicycling to school. Michigan has spent two years laying the groundwork in anticipation of the new program and is well positioned to implement the expected \$19 million this program will bring to Michigan over the life of SAFETEA-LU.

SAFETEA-LU greatly increased both the dollar value and total number of congressionally-designated (or earmarked) highway and transit projects when compared with previous authorization periods. SAFETEA-LU includes 171 earmark transportation projects for Michigan at a total value of \$643,304,000.
